



PRESS RELEASE

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION APPOINTS GENERAL MARTIN LUTHER AGWAI AS NEW FORCE COMMANDER IN DARFUR

The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Alpha Oumar Konare, has appointed General Martin Luther Agwai of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as the new Force Commander in Darfur.

In accordance with the communiqué of the 66th meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council, held in Abuja, Nigeria, on 30 November 2006, the Force Commander is appointed by the Chairperson of the AU Commission, in consultation with the United Nations Secretary-General, and will report to the AU-UN Joint Special Representative for Darfur. General Agwai will serve first as the Force Commander of the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) and ultimately as the Force Commander for the AU-UN Hybrid Operation. He will be assisted by a Deputy Force Commander.

General Agwai was born on 8 November 1948 in Kaduna, Nigeria. He has been Chief of Defence Staff of the Nigerian Armed Forces since 1st June 2006. Before that, he held several senior positions in the Nigerian Army, including being Chief of Army Staff. In his military career, he also served as Deputy Force Commander of the UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), and Adviser in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations at the UN Headquarters, in New York.

Addis Ababa, 23 May 2007